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Message Text

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73
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 /036 W
---------- 084275
R 132019Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7847

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR BF
SUBJ: PAN AM DISCONTINUES FLIGHTS TO BAHAMAS

1. MR. HERBERT THOMAS, JR., DIVISIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, LATIN AMERICAN DIVISION OF PAN AM, AND MR. M. J. GURNEY, PAN AM'S NASSAU MANAGER, REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH AMBASSADOR THIS MORNING TO INFORM HIM THAT PAN AM HAD REQUESTED CAB APPROVAL TO CANCEL PAN AM FLIGHT FROM NEW YORK TO NASSAU, AS WELL AS NASSAU/ROCK SOUND ROUTE. REQUEST FOR CANCELLATION WOULD BE AS OF MARCH 15, 1976 THROUGH DECEMBER 1977.

2. MR. THOMAS EXPLAINED THAT PAN AM HAD LOST DOLS 3.9 MILLION LASY YEAR ON THIS ROUTE AND SAW NO HOPE OF MAKING IT INTO A PROFITABLE ENDEAVOR SO LONG AS PAN AM WAS PRECLUDED FROM FLYING TO INTERNAL U.S. CITIES. SHORT ROUTE, LARGE AIRCRAFT AND UNDER-UTILIZATION OF CREWS APPARENTLY MAKE LOSSES INEVITABLE.

3. PAN AM WILL RETAIN A SKELETON CREW IN NASSAU LARGELY TO HANDLE CHARTER FLIGHTS WHICH WILL CONTINUE. HOWEVER, NINETEEN BAHAMIANS IN NASSAU AND EIGHT IN ROCK SOUND WILL BE DISCHARGED.

4. THOMAS AND GURNEY VISITED MINISTER OF TOURISM MAYNARD TO BREAK NEWS TO HIM. MAYNARD EXPRESSED UNHAPPINESS AND IMPLIED GCOB MIGHT REQUEST USG TO PERMIT BAHAMASAIR TO FLY NASSAU/
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NEW YORK ROUTE. PRIMIN, IN EARLIER COMMENTING UPON RUMORED

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PAN AM ACTION, ALSO MENTIONED THIS POSSIBILITY, THOUGH WITH NOTE OF SKEPTICISM AS TO WHETHER CAB WOULD AGREE TO SUCH A REQUEST. IN FACT, DELTA AND EASTERN, BOTH OF WHOM FLY TO NEW YORK, CAN EASILY ABSORB PAN AM PASSENGERS AND DOUBTLESS WILL BE DELIGHTED AT EXTRA BUSINESS.
WEISS

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